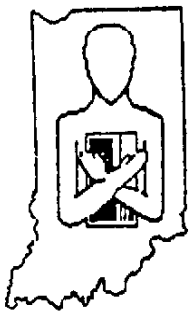

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March 1988 THE HUGgers NEWLETTER Volume 6, Number 2

UPGRADING HUGGER BBS (317)631-9942

Saturaday, February 21, 1988 the HUGGER bulleting board was taken off-line. A new BBS has been on-line since that date. You will notice some major changes compared to the CALTEX #6 that had been on-line since June of 1984, the equipment is the same; however, the software is much more efficent than the previous CALTEX Hugger bbs.

HUGGER BBS will be supporting XMODEM only transfers. Gone into never, never byte land are the special codes, the fancy screen cursor "dancing" and the color choices. Texas Instruments, Terminal Emulator II can still used with your modem; however, you will need some terminal emulator that supports XMODEM file transfers.

First things, first since this is a limited edition to HUG members ONLY...

Signing on the HUGGER BBS

1. When you have the first indication of establishment of a CONNECT, press any key on your keyboard a few times.

2. Reply for do you want linefeeds, should be the "Y" key, your screen will respond "Yes" after you enter the key press. The bbs does not require you to press enter at one key inputs.

3. The next prompt, asks if you wish to view the sign-on screen; which may be bypassed by responding "N".

4. You will be asked for a USER number and a password, presently you may need to enter a "0", then city and state. We are trying to sign-on all members, so a USER NUMBER can be assigned to all members, your password will be the number you are used to using for example "700LZ". Write down both your USER NUMBER and your PASSWORD.

5. Hugger BBS Main Menu prompt, will be the "MAIN MENU" used to more from area to area on the bbs. If you need more help press the "?" key, this feature works for displaying the full description of the key to chose at the

6. If you signed-on as User No. 0, at the "Main Menu" prompt, press the "R" key to "Request a password", please answer the questions properly, failure to answer properly could cause processing of your request to be delayed, denied, or ignored. When you call back after establishing your User Number and password, this is all you will need to sign-on the HUGGER BBS. If you fail to follow instructions you may have to call back, there are certain counters, timers, and efficent data carrier checks to improve the quaility of telecommuncations to be enjoyed on your TI 99/4A.

6. XMODEM when operational....will support any computer, the limitation being the physical storage capacity. The TI disk operating system allows only 127 files per disk regardless of the disk formatting. Messages on this bbs are handled as 1 of 127 files. . That all available allocation of files for one disk drive. Some disk files can grow in size, so any file that can change in size accounts for another disk drive (127 file factor + growing allocation). The main HUGGER BBS program and support utilities are "dedicated" to one disk drive for security, do writes or reads to this

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

We don't have a President's Corner this month, because we don't have a President. Selecting new officers is an up-coming task that we need to address in the next couple of meetings. We also need one or a few people who will take responsibility for preparing our newsletter. There are already some people who provide some articles for the newsletter and who help paste up the newsletter for printing. We still need an Editor who will consolidate the materials and see that the whole process moves along according to schedule. Our group also receives a large number of newsletters each month from other user groups. Many of these contain outstanding articles of interest to our members which can be re-produced in our own newsletter. The problem is that we need one or more people who can review the newsletters to pick out the most useful articles. The whole task is easiest if we can get 8-10 people involved in the process--reviewing, writing, paste-up, printing, and preparing the final product for mailing. Can you help? Hopefully, we can spend some time at future meetings re-vamping our organization to better meet the needs of our members. We have many members who rarely, if ever, attend meetings. If they belong so they can receive the newsletter and have access to the library, that's fit. We are primarily concerned that we are meeting their needs. We need comunications to know if we are meeting all our members needs because we would like to see all of you remain as members. If you don't attend the meetings regularly, drop a line to the group at the Post Office Box address on this newsletter to let the group know what you want to see continued, or what you want added. The next meeting date, Sunday March 13, conflicts with the Ham Fest which many of our members attend. In order to accommmodate as many people as possible, the next meeting will be brief, BEGINNING AT 4:00 P.M. We hope to see as many of you as possible at the meeting.

People Helping People

Continued fron PAGE ONE

disk drive. This will leave one driv for both uploading and downloading. The system configured with 4 disk drives. There is no "HARD DISK", "NO HORIZON RAMDISK", and the modem limited to 300 baud, 7 data bits, even parity even parity. XMODEM setsup at 8 data bits and no parity automatically.

More than 50 hours work have gone into this "conversion" so far, as I write this now XMODEM functions are NOT AVAILABLE, the menu will return you back to the "Main Menu" prompt. If you think it is working and you keep seeing RETIES in XMODEM, ABORT pressing "function 4" keys and return to the terminal mode of operation.

I am looking forward to seeing XMODEM transfers, my personal goal is to have all bugs out of the HUGGER BBS by the April meeting, perhaps then we can have a presentation or more detailed help available, the bulletin board activity has been low on a day to day base. Thi HUGGER BBS has five message bases, t help shorten the time required to read messages; however, the nature of this implementation is such that a message could "scroll off" if you are an infrequent caller. Each message can be twenty lines long, 80 character wide (check out the editor for messages!!!). Each message base holds 20 messages, each time you call the bbs, user status will be displayed.

Due to a schedule conflict I will not be prepared to attend the March HUG meeting, The INDIANA HAMFEST will be sunday, March 13 at the State Fairground on East 38th Street, Indianapolis, IN. Indianapolis, IN. L. L. Conner will be at the INDIANA HAMFEST, admission charge to this event is $5.00. Please hold any HUGGER BBS questions until the April meeting, the "bugs in the software" are being elimanate as we find them, I am hopeful this will be complete by April 1, 1988.

Article prepared by William M. Lucid. Software improvements and enhancements by J. Steven Sims and William M. Lucid "testing, linking, calling and proving."

TI WRITER TIPS

by Dennis Gherfy

Saving and merging PARTIAL FILES is a useful feature in TI WRITER. Portions of previously written letters can be incorporated into new letters without re-typing the text over again. If you have gone to the trouble to prepare an involved letter-head, you can easily merge it into the beginning of subsequent letters. If you want to take out a paragraph from a letter, but possibly use it later, you can save it as a separate file that can be expanded, or merged later. If you write to a variety of family and friends, you can write a long letter, then combine the paragraphs selectively to your brother, uncle, friend, etc. Each letter will be unique, combining the appropriate paragraphs for each person.

If you are going to do a lot of work with partial files, it's convenient to have a har copy printed with line numbers. You can do this through the editor. Normally, when I print through t editor, I key PF <ENTER> PIO <ENTER>. When I want a printout with line numbers, I key PF <ENTER> L <SPACE> PIO <ENTER>. Of course, you have to have room to print the line numbers on your printer. If your printer will print 80 characters on a line, and you want to print line numbers plus 80 characters, it won't work. Your text line cannot be more than 74 characters wide if you want to print line numbers.

Once you have a printout with line numbers, it's easy to save or merge a partial file. If I want to save lines 11 through 23, I key SF <ENTER> 11 <SPACE> 23 <SPACE> DSK1.FILENAME <ENTER>. What if you don't want a whole line? What if you only want the last two words on line 11? You can do this by moving your cursor in front of the last two words and pressing INSERT CHARACTER, (FCTN 2). This will break your sentance in two, causing the last two words to be placed on a the next line. In this example, they would be on line 12. This would shift the rest of the lines in your document down also so you would save lines 12-24 instead of lines 11-23. If you don't want everything on line 24, you can get rid of part of it in the same way you split line 11. Move your cursor to the end of what you want to keep, and press INSERT CHARACTER again. The portion of the line you don't want to save will drop down to the next line. In this way you can save only the exact portion of the text you want.

If you plan to split a lot of lines, it's best to do so before you make your printout with line numbers because after you split several lines your line numbers will be changed.

You can merge entire files into your present document, or just part of a file can be added to your present document. If you want to merge an entire file, first determine where you want it to go. Let's say you want to print a file after line 14 in your present document. You would key LF <ENTER> 14 <SPACE> DSK1.FILENAME <ENTER>. This will insert the document called FILENAME between lines 14 and 15 of your present document. If you only want to merge lines 7-15 of FILENAME, you would key LF <ENTER> 14 <SPACE> 7 <SPACE> 15 <SPACE> DSK1.FILENAME <ENTER>.

After you merge a file, you can use REFORMAT (CTRL 2) to eliminate extra spaces and merge all of the text into a single paragraph.

In a previous column, I described how I developed a series of Transliterations and formating commands that I used in all my letters. I merge this file at the beginning of subsequent documents by typing LF <ENTER> 0 <SPACE> DSK1.FILENAME <ENTER>. This places FILENAME in front of line 1 of my new document file.

This is one of the features that puts TI WRITER up there with the more expensive word processing programs.

HUGger Back Issues

Back issues purchased at the monthly meeting are $1.00 each. Mail order price is $1.50 per Newsletter (postage included). Orders will be filled within 3 weeks of recipt.

Triton Super X-Basic (Review)
by Jim Ellis (C) 1988

I received my cartridge six months ago and have been evaluating it ever since. It comes with a remade version of TI Extended Basic in addition to its own Super X-Basic manual. When you select Super X-Basic, from the menu, it still does a search for 'DSK1.LOAD', but if you depress and hold down the key that selects Super X-Basic, it will not do that search, but instead give you the 'Ready' prompt. It will recognize the Horizon Ram Disk as any drive you use, within the limits of your controller card, be it Corcomp or "?". Several keywords have been changed, enhanced, or deleted. PERMANENT and RESEQUENCE are no longer available, who used them? RES can now renumber a portion of your program or all of it. TRACE can send output to ANY device. There are some very nice improvements in the program editing mode, I highlight them as follows:

FCTN-SHIFT S cursor to start of line.
FCTN-SHIFT D cursor to end of line.
FCTN-SHIFT E cursor up one line.
FCTN-SHIFT X cursor down one line.

CTRL S tabs 5 characters to the left.
CTRL D tabs 5 characters to the right.
CTRL W word tab.
CTRL C delete characters to end of line.
CTRL Z delete characters to start of line. These also work when responding to an INPUT or ACCEPT AT statement in a running program. COPY will copy a line or group of lines to another location in your program. Also with this is the DEL command which will delete a group of lines from your program. The MOVE command will move a line or block of lines to another location. There are several new CALLS. They are briefly, CALL ALL(n), CALL ALOCK(x), CALL BEEP, CALL CAT("device."), CALL CHIMES, CALL CLOCK, CALL CLKOFF, CALL CLSALL, CALL COLORS(f,b), CALL CTRL(x), CALL FCTN(x), CALL GOSPRT, CALL GOSUB(x), CALL GOTO(x), CALL HONK, CALL NEW, CALL KEYS("keylist",x), CALL PEEKG, CALL POKEG, CALL PEEKV, CALL POKEV, CALL QUITOFF, CALL QUITON, CALL RESTORE(x), CALL RUNPROG("device.filename"), CALL SCROFF, CALL SCRON, CALL SHIFT(x), CALL STSPRT, and CALL GOSPRT. More about the QUITOFF, the default mode is ON. You have to do a CALL QUITOFF in order to disable the QUIT key. It makes more sense to me to have had it come up in the OFF mode. I personally do not know of any person that wants the QUIT key. I have hit it too many times by mistake to count them. I would like to say that the CALL CAT feature is nice. You can catalog a disk from the command mode of Super X-Basic or it can be used from a running program. There is also another special CALL, it is the CALL DRAWNPLOT command. The cartridge also comes with the code for the DRAWNPLOT (tm) program from Quality 99 Software. The manual contains two programs to help get you acquainted with its abilities. I have used this program a little just to see what it can do. It is fast, but keep in mind you are using some machine language routines called from extended basic. Once again, I was dissappointed when it come to the printer routine to be used with Drawnplot. They only support TI, and Epson compatible or Prowriter. I have an Okidata 82. For the techie the module contains (1) 27C128 eprom, (1) 27256 eprom, (1) 74LS74, and (4) 74LS161 I.C.s plus (1) PAL circuit and miscellaneous resistors and capacitors. The two eproms are plug in, so looks like we could be seeing an update from time to time.

The unit was developed by MG (formerly Miller Graphics). It does have (I am told) some of the ways of the Gram Kracker (tm). If used in a widget, the Super X-Basic prompt still comes up on the menu when it isn't the module selected, altho it can't be activated. When it is all said and done, if you don't have Extended Basic yet, or you want the features of the built in Drawnplot (tm) then by all means make the investment. Triton at times has offered a trade-in coupon for the TI Extended Basic cartridge which pays you back $20.00 for your OLD one if you desire to get rid of it. You can probably sell it for more than that amount to someone in your users group. Please keep in mind that I have hardly more than skimmed the surface in this aritcle and that perhaps you should see for yourself. Later.....

Upgrading the HUGger BBS

C>HAT
Calls the sysop to terminal mode. If he's available, you'll be acknowledged and you may communicate with the SysOp in terminal mode.

D>OWNLOAD
Gives a list of the possible download programs available. Read the manual or documentation that came with your program for XMODEM assistance. The choices for librarys are given. After each file is displayed you are given a choice to download, read next file or quit.

G>OODBYE
Logs you off the system.

L>IST CALLERS
Prints a list of the most recent (20) callers and where they are from. The date is also displayed.

N>OTE TO SYSOP
Any feedback can be left on my printer. Max 20 lines of 80 columns.

P>ARAMETERS
A function that allows you to change the linefeed command.

R>EQUEST PASSWORD
This allows you to have a password and user # to login quickly and will keep track of your last message read and last time you called. If you do not use your password at least once a month it will be erased and you will have to request a new one.

T>EXT FILES
Used to read various text files, such as: Bulletins, Information, Other BBS Systems, etc... but it is NOT used to read user-entered messages (they're in the M>essage Module). Once you enter the F>ile Module, press "?" for the menu. The menu will change as new files are added or deleted by the SysOp.

U>PLOAD
Read your manual for instructions.
>>>>NOTE<<<< Any copyrighted material uploaded will result in prosecution!

X>PERT MODE
Toggles X>PERT mode on and off (Does not print options at each * FUNCTION prompt).

Y>USER # & NAME
This is a list of active users #'s & Names. Use this to find out the spelling of user's names.

M>ESSAGE MODULE
This is the heart of all the message functions. It includes the disk-based messages The functions included in the M>essage module are:

E>ntry--used to enter a disk-based message, now with E-MAIL. Private messages are available.

K>ill--allows you to remove a disk-based message from the system, providing that you have the same name used to enter or receive the message.

R>etrieval--retrieves disk based messages (either singular or multiple). For multiple retrieval, use the format "N-N" to specify beginning and ending message numbers You may use either the forward or reversed fashion (ie: 86-65). Also, if you leave out either the beginning or ending number, the system will use the first or last message on the system as a default, whichever is appropriate. (Example: Entering 86- would read from #86 to the last message in the system. Entering -86 would read from the first message thru #86.)

S>can&Read--Scans the message headers to locate the message(s) that you'd like to read). It shows the message Number, From, To, Subject, Date for each message. You must specify the starting and ending message #'s that you'd like to scan and you may use either forward or reversed fashion, just like the retreival.

<Q>uickscan--Reads just the message headers.

LIBRARY BITS by Dennis Sherfy

It seems like the faster the TI 99/4A computer dies in the market place, the faster new software is developed. A few years ago, we used to add several new programs to our library each month.

versions of older programs. FUNNELWEB is an example. The authors keep modifying the program, so our library contains a number of versions of FUNNELWEB. We also have several versions of DM1000, and several terminal emulator programs.

Some recent additions to our library include new material on C99, more terminal emulator material, including a phone dialer by Birdwell for Fast-Term, the latest on Funnelweb, a tutorial on Extended Basic, informatin on FORTRAN, a disk of Instances for TI ARTIST, programs for archiving and un-archiving programs for more efficient disk storage, three disks on the Creative Filing System, an Assemby Language program called ENHANCED DISPLAY PACKAGE, and information about our group s bulletin board. Several of these disks are worth separate articles in future Newsletters.

If you haven't seen our library lately, there is a lot of new material for you to look over.

MONTHLY MEETING LOCATION

ST. Ann's School
2839 S. McClure
Indianapolis, IN

Meetings open at 2:00 PM

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